

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-947

Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church

18600 Vernon Road

Vernon, Baltimore County

Ca. 1897

Private

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1897, dates to a period of significant growth in Vernon (originally called Mount Vernon) in Election District Seven of Baltimore County. The church replaced the original church on the site, which was erected circa 1871. The small village, along the first Mine Run, was located a mile from White Hall boasted the Methodist Episcopal Church, a Baptist Church and a school. The church continues to serve the rural village of Vernon.

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in the Victorian Gothic style, stands on the west side of Vernon Road. The two-story brick church, laid in a six-course American bond pattern, sits on a random rubble stone foundation and features a slate tile roof. Gable-front and wing in form, the main block of the building measures three bays wide and three bays deep with a square three-story bell tower. The main block features three evenly spaced lancet-arch multi-light stained-glass windows with square-edged stone sills and brick lintels, bracketed overhanging eaves, exterior brick buttresses, and a flush wooden fascia. The façade also features a recessed wing with two multi-light lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows. Dominating the façade is the three-story off-center bell tower with double-leaf Gothic arch paneled wooden doors with Gothic multi-light transoms on two sides. The second story of the tower is clad in wooden shingled and features a central tripartite Gothic-arched window with central wooden keystone. Capped by a pyramidal roof, the third story open-bay belfry displays wooden brackets and detailing, including a turned post balustrade. A one-story gabled brick veneer educational wing was added circa 1950. An historic cemetery with approximately 150 markers is located on a grassy rise across Vernon Road from the church.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA- 947

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
other _____

2. Location

street and number 18600 Vernon Road not for publication _____
city, town Vernon vicinity _____
county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
street and number 18600 Vernon Road telephone _____
city, town Vernon state MD zip code 21161

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel NA
city, town Towson liber NA folio NA

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
____ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
____ district	<u>X</u> public	____ agriculture	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	____ private	____ landscape	Noncontributing
____ structure	____ both	____ commerce/trade	____ buildings
____ site		____ defense	____ sites
____ object		____ domestic	____ structures
		____ education	____ objects
		<u>X</u> funerary	____ Total
		____ government	
		____ health care	
		____ industry	
		____ recreation/culture	
		<u>X</u> religion	
		____ social	
		____ transportation	
		____ work in progress	
		____ unknown	
		____ vacant/not in use	
		____ other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory
2

7. Description

Inventory No. BA- 947

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1897 in the Victorian Gothic style, stands on the west side of Vernon Road. The two-story brick church, laid in a six-course American bond pattern, sits on a random rubble stone foundation and features a slate tile roof. Gable-front and wing in form, the main block of the building measures three bays wide and three bays deep with a square three-story bell tower. The main block features three evenly spaced lancet-arch multi-light stained-glass windows with square-edged stone sills and brick lintels, bracketed overhanging eaves, exterior brick buttresses, and a flush wooden fascia. The façade also features a recessed wing with two multi-light lancet-arched multi-light stained glass windows. Dominating the façade is the three-story off-center bell tower with double-leaf Gothic arch paneled wooden doors with Gothic multi-light transoms on two sides. The second story of the tower is clad in wooden shingled and features a central tripartite Gothic-arched window with central wooden keystone. Capped by a pyramidal roof, the third story open-bay belfry displays wooden brackets and detailing, including a turned post balustrade. A central gabled bay flanked by lancet-arched stained glass windows projects from the southwest elevation, while three Gothic-style windows pierce the northeast elevation. . All elevation of the main block and wing feature a wood shingled gable peak with tri-partite multi-light lancet-arched window and wooden keystone A one-story gabled brick veneer educational wing was added circa 1950. The addition features an asphalt-shingled roof and 6/6 windows with rowlock sills.

An historic cemetery is located on a grassy rise across Vernon Road from the church. Consisting of approximately 150 granite, marble, and sandstone markers, the cemetery features headstones, some footstones, beveled headers, and ground markers. The markers display decorative motifs including trees, obelisks, floral patterns, ferns, lambs, bibles, payers, crosses and US Armed Forces insignias. Family names revealed in the cemetery include Belt, Parrish, Slade, Elliott, Bacon, Hunter, Nelson and Preston. The earliest marker reads Pleasant R. Belt (died 1874, age 20). Still in use, the cemetery also includes the commemorative marker for Adeline Garrett (1912-1999). A decorative iron fence encloses the cemetery.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA- 947

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed circa 1897, dates to a period of significant growth in Vernon (originally called Mount Vernon) in Election District Seven of Baltimore County. The church replaced the original church on the site, which was erected circa 1871. The small village, along the first Mine Run, was located a mile from White Hall boasted the Methodist Episcopal Church, a Baptist Church and a school. The seventh district was the largest and most populated region of the county in latter part of the 19th century. Located near the Pennsylvania and Harford lines in the northeast part of Baltimore County, the area historically consisted of rolling hills, transversed by major transportation corridors. The cultivation of wheat, corn, oats, fruit, dairy, and the breeding of cattle supported the residents and neighboring town of White Hall, a major stops for the Northern Central Railway. The communities are located less than twenty-five miles north of Baltimore City. In 1881, the village of White Hall was home to approximately 100 people. Located in a prominent dairy farming region, it was one of the principal milk stations along the railway, shipping over 300 gallons of milk daily to Baltimore. On Gunpowder Falls, just above White Hall, was a manila paper mill owned and operated by A. J. Burke. The two villages, both of which were surrounded by rural agricultural farms devoted primarily to dairy production. The railroad and their close proximity to York Road, the major north-south transportation artery, rendered the small towns as centers of trade.¹ The church continues to serve the rural village of Vernon.

¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*, (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 872-874.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA- 947

- Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
- Hopkins, G.M.. *Atlas of Baltimore County*, 1877.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day, Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881; reprinted edition Salem, MA: Higginson Book Company, nd.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property Unknown 3.645
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name Norrisville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1897, the Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated the property at 18600 Vernon Road.

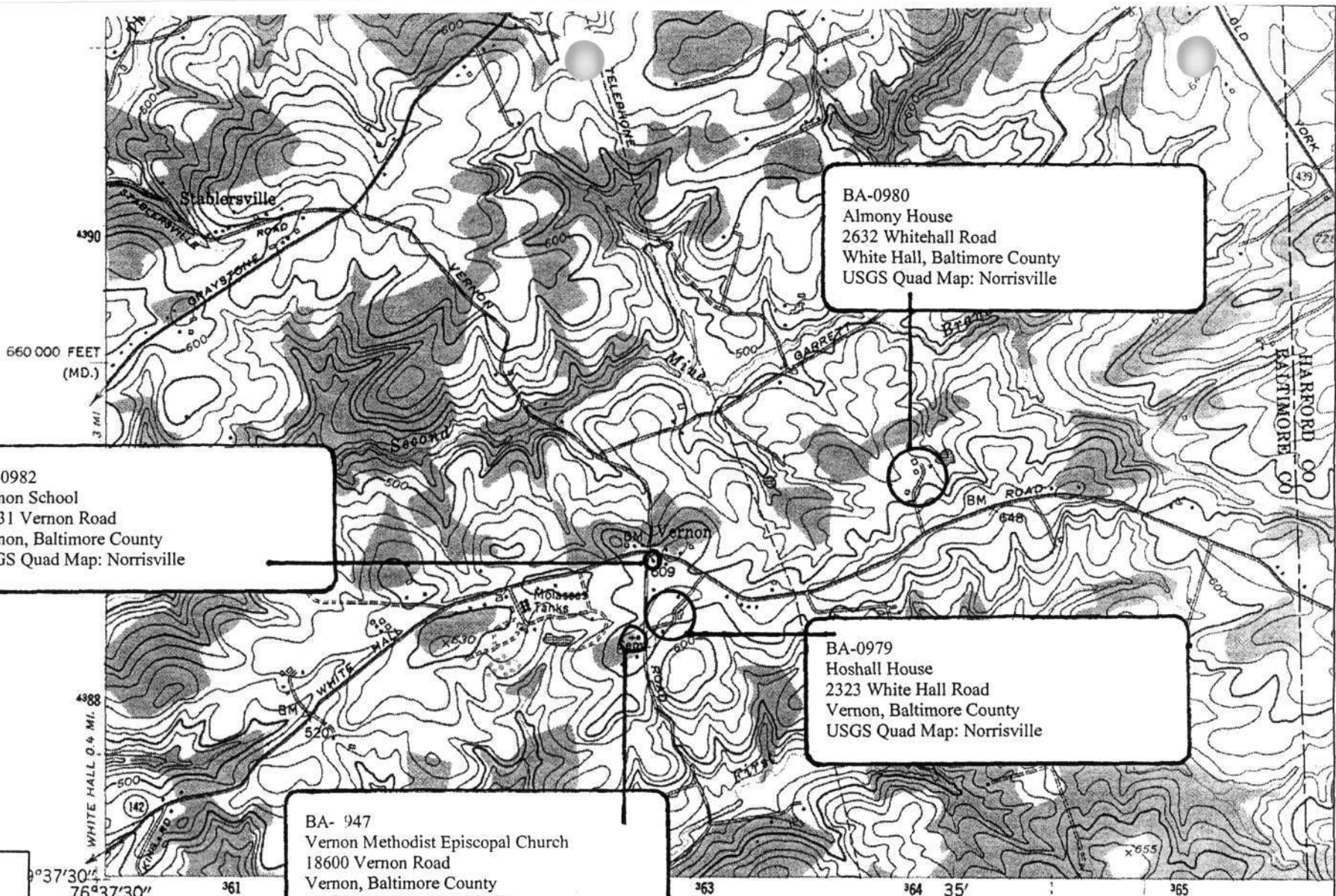
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting and A. L. McDonald, Architectural Historians		
organization	E.H.T. Tracerics, Inc.	date	April 10, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



BA-0982
Vernon School
18631 Vernon Road
Vernon, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

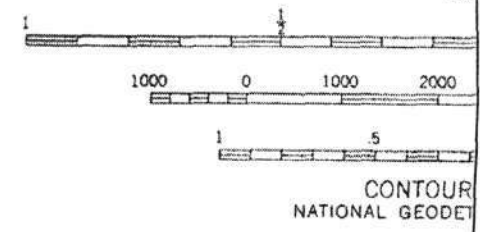
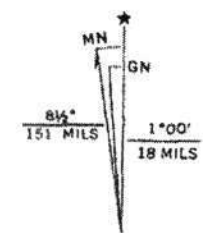
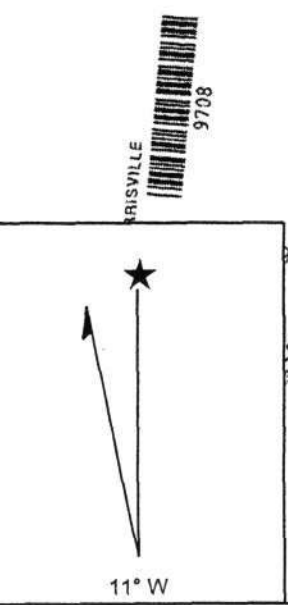
BA-0980
Almony House
2632 Whitehall Road
White Hall, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

BA-0979
Hoshall House
2323 White Hall Road
Vernon, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

BA- 947
Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
18600 Vernon Road
Vernon, Baltimore County
USGS Quad Map: Norrisville

Mapped by the Army
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and USSCS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field check 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1956 - 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system,
and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks

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BA-947

Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church

18600 Vernon Road

Baltimore County, MD

Traceries

3/01

MD SHPO

Cemetery, view looking East

photo 1 of 5



BA-947

vernon Methodist Episcopal Church

18600 Vernon Road

Baltimore county, MD

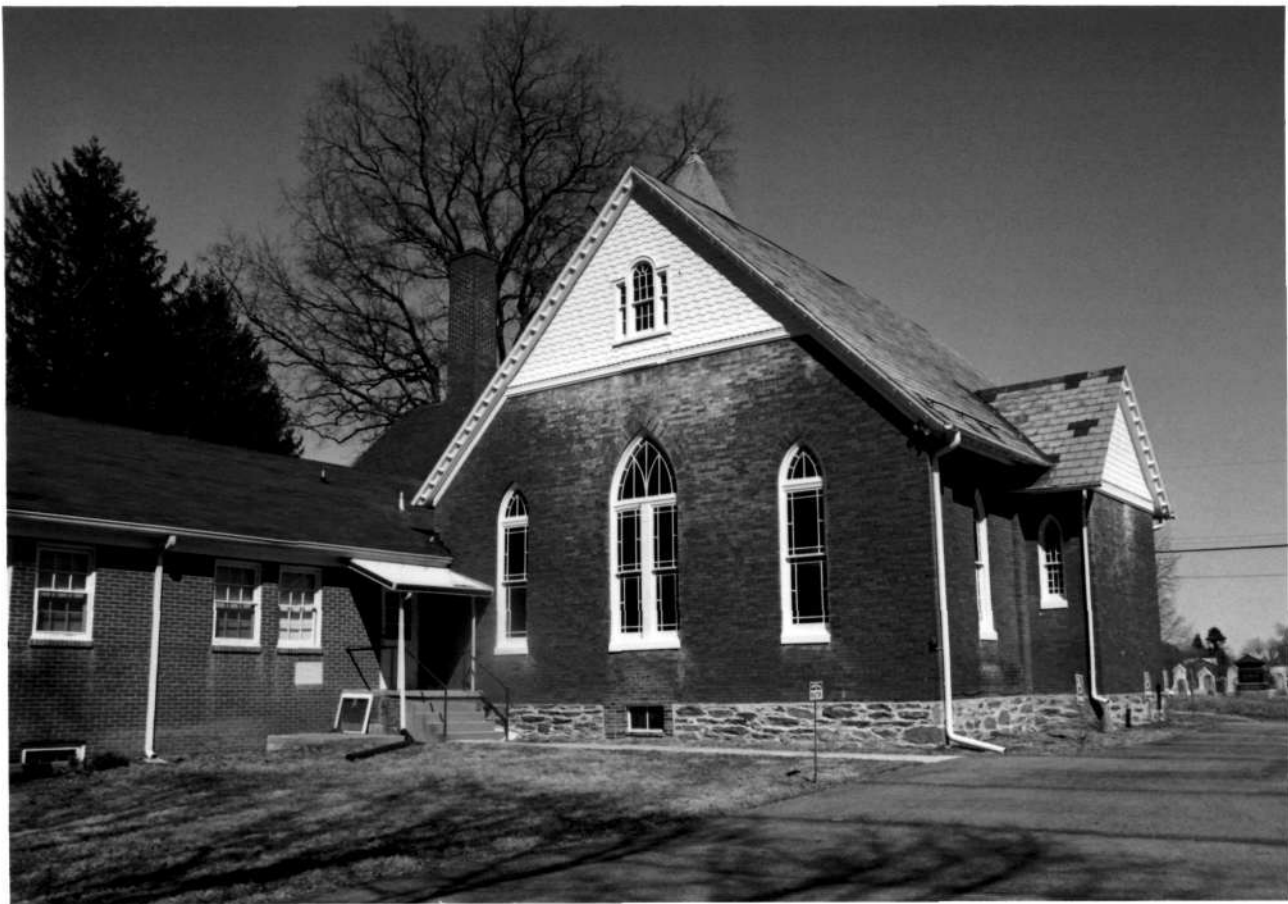
Traceries

3/01

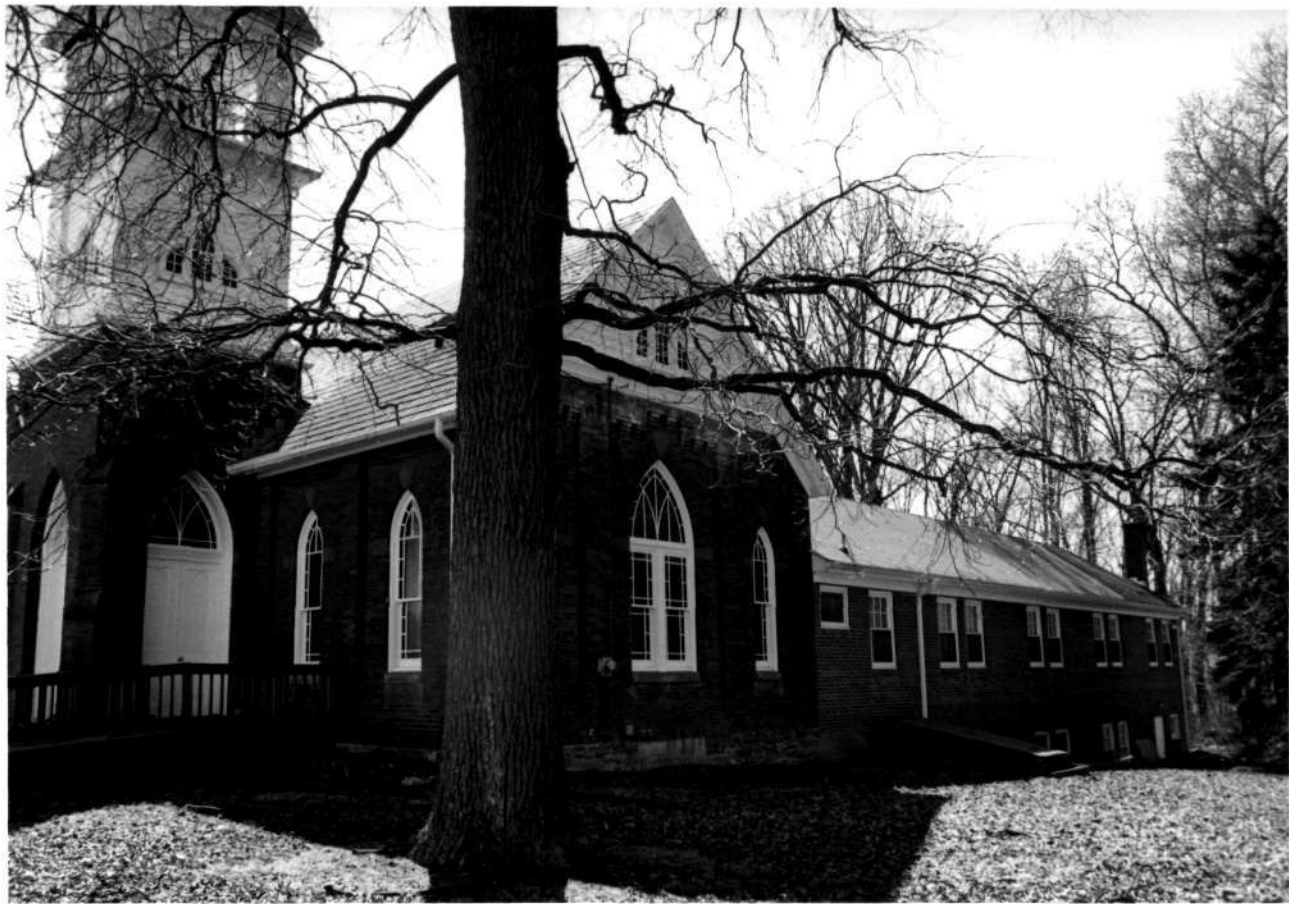
MD SHPO

Church, southwest elevation, view looking Northeast

Photo 2 of 5



BA-947
Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
18600 Vernon Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries
3/01
MD SHPO
Church, West corner. View looking East
photo 3 of 5



BA-947
Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
18600 Vernon Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries
3/01
MD SHPO
Church, East corner, view looking West
Photo 4 of 5



BA-947
Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church
18600 Vernon Road
Baltimore County, MD
Traceries

3/01
MD SHPO
Church, Southeast elevation, view looking Northwest
photo 5 of 5

947 VERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND CEMETERY - 1897 - West side of Vernon Road, south of Gemmils. Brick church with open belfry built in 1897 to replace structure of 1871. Educational building attached in 1950. Church is gable roofed. Belfry base and eaves filled with imbricated wood shingles painted white. Lancet and gothic windows in various patterns with colored glass panes. Tower has a three-part gothic window. Topped by pyramidal roof ending in a finial. Bracketed eaves. High Victorian Gothic style. Large cemetery across road.